

GOVERNOR (1965-1977 : RAMPTON) [446]

ISSUES CORRESPONDENCE, 1967-1976.

3.45 cu. ft. and 8 reels of microfilm

DESCRIPTION: This series contains letters to Governor Rampton on issues, most of them controversial, that Utahns were concerned with from 1970 to 1976. The issues include concern or controversy over the building of the Trans-Escalante Highway, air pollution in the Salt Lake Valley (many Utahns sent in photographs of some of the worst examples of air pollution that they had seen), pornographic and "obscene" literature, the Equal Rights Amendment, the fate of wild horses and burros in Utah, the execution of convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, and the proposed Kaiparowits Power Project. Also included in this series are "ballots for information of Governor" from 1967, comprised of questions issued by the National Federation of Independent Business and completed by Utah citizens. The ballot questions range from "Should the Utah State Legislature repeal the State inventory tax?" to "Should the Utah State Legislature forbid payment of unemployment benefits to those who are on strike?", and relate to the 1966 and 1967 legislative sessions.

Rampton responded to many of the controversial issues with a form letter, through which his position on the issue is outlined or clarified. He preferred, for example, that the Trans-Escalante Highway be built in order to make the area available for more tourists. (This position is contained in box 1, folder 5 of this series.) In response to the complaints about the "flood" of pornographic literature in Utah, Rampton wrote that he will "continue to take an aggressive position against those who attempt to distribute obscene literature in our state", but that the "burden of enforcement" rests with Utah citizens, local law enforcement agencies, and the U.S. Post Office. (This position is contained in box 2, folder 1 of this series.) Rampton also shared concern with those worried about the fate of wild horses and burros in Utah, and stated that "Utah has been applying the standards established by the Wild Horse and Burro Act on the lands under our jurisdiction, even though we were not lawfully required to do so". (This position is contained in box 2, folder 19 of this series.) An issue on which the letter-writers and Rampton disagreed, however, was the Equal Rights Amendment. Rampton,

in apparent opposition to the majority of Utahns, believed that the "constitutional amendment would be beneficial", although he acknowledges that the "ratification of amendments to the federal constitution is a right and responsibility left solely to the Legislature". (This position is contained in box 2, folder 17 of this series.)

Although the majority of the correspondence in this series is in regard to Gary Gilmore and the death penalty, there is little response from Rampton regarding this issue, as well as the issue of the proposed Kaiparowits Power Project. Rampton stayed Gilmore's execution in the final months of 1976, but Gilmore ultimately was executed on January 17, 1977, just two weeks after Rampton left office. The Kaiparowits Power Project was a more lengthy matter, with plans for the power plant beginning in 1965 and the abandonment of the idea more than a decade later. The 1976 correspondence contained in this series is mostly in response to an "Environmental Impact Statement" on the Project, issued by the Department of the Interior, as well as Rampton's appearance on "60 Minutes", during which he stated his continued support of the Project.

In regard to the types of materials in this series, all complaints about pornographic literature (with the exception of one letter from a Utah citizen) are "form" cards (i.e., containing the same content), distributed by an Ohio-based company called "Citizens for Decency through Law". For researchers, this does little more than offer the names and addresses of those concerned. Many of the letters expressing concern about pollution in the Salt Lake Valley include photographs.

ARRANGEMENT: This series is arranged chronologically by year or multiple year grouping, thereunder alphabetically by issue, thereunder by date. Much of the correspondence for each issue is not in exact chronological order of date or year but simply grouped by year or multiple year grouping. Undated materials have been kept in the order in which they were found.

RELATED RECORDS: The gaps in this series (1965-1969) may be found inter-filed with Series 13856, CORRESPONDENCE. See also Series 17581, OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE, for copies of form letters which may have served as additional replies to many of the letters contained in this series. Much more information regarding issues such as the death penalty and Daylight Savings time may be found in Series 13856, CORRESPONDENCE, although, unfortunately, much of this series is arranged by last name of the correspondent. More information about the Kaiparowits Power Project may be found in Series 13856, CORRESPONDENCE (luckily under the heading of "Kaiparowits Power Project") and in Series 17587, SPEECHES (researchers should check box 2, folder 134, and box 3, folder 120). Researchers should also check Series 14250, STATE AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE (under such headings as "Health", "Industrial Commission", and "Industrial Promotion") for possible additional materials regarding Kaiparowits. See also Series 14250, STATE AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE, under the heading "Health", for additional materials on air and water pollution. Series 13856, CORRESPONDENCE, also

contains headings of "Air Pollution" and "Pollution". More petitions and pledges may be found in Series 13856, CORRESPONDENCE, as well, under the heading of "Petitions".

PROCESSING NOTE: This series was microfilmed in December 2003 and the hard copy will be kept because of the intrinsic value of the papers. It was processed by Kira Robertson in February 2001 and scheduled in accordance with the Utah State Agency General Retention Schedule.

PREFERRED CITATION: Cite the Utah State Archives and Records Service, the creating agency name, the series title, and the series number.

GAPS: Gaps in this series may be found in several related correspondence series; see RELATED RECORDS above.

CONTAINER LIST

Reel	Box	Folder	Description
1	1	1	1967; "Ballots for information of Governor", issued by the National Federation of Independent Business, regarding issues from the 1966, 1967 legislative sessions
1	1	2	1967; "Ballots for information of Governor", issued by the National Federation of Independent Business, regarding issues from the 1966, 1967 legislative sessions
1	1	3	1967; "Ballots for information of Governor", issued by the National Federation of Independent Business, regarding issues from the 1966, 1967 legislative sessions
1	1	4	1967; "Ballots for information of Governor", issued by the National Federation of Independent Business, regarding issues from the 1966, 1967 legislative sessions
1	1	5	1970; Trans-Escalante Highway from Bullfrog Basin to Hole-in-the-Rock; Jan 12-21
1	1	6	1970; Trans-Escalante Highway from Bullfrog Basin to Hole-in-the-Rock; Jan 22-31
1	1	7	1970; Trans-Escalante Highway

Reel	Box	Folder	Description
1	1	8	from Bullfrog Basin to Hole-in-the-Rock; Feb 1970; Trans-Escalante Highway
1	1	9	from Bullfrog Basin to Hole-in-the-Rock; Mar-May 1970; Trans-Escalante Highway
2	1	10	from Bullfrog Basin to Hole-in-the-Rock; Jun-Nov 1970; Jerry Rubin's appearance at University of Utah; Feb
2	1	11	1970; air pollution in Salt Lake Valley; Apr
2	1	12	1970; air pollution in Salt Lake Valley; Apr
2	1	13	1970; air pollution in Salt Lake Valley; Apr
2	1	14	1970; air pollution in Salt Lake Valley; Apr
2	1	15	1970; Board of Pardons and Parole Program; Aug-Sep
2	1	16	1970; traffic signal near Defense Depot, Ogden, Utah; Aug-Oct
2	2	1	1971-1973; pornography, obscenity
2	2	2	1971-1973; pornography, obscenity
3	2	3	1971-1973; pornography, obscenity
3	2	4	1971-1973; pornography, obscenity
3	2	5	1971-1973; pornography, obscenity
4	2	6	1971-1973; pornography, obscenity
4	2	7	1971-1973; pornography, obscenity
4	2	8	1971-1973; pornography, obscenity
4	2	9	1972; additional traffic semiphore in St. George, Utah; Oct
4	2	10	1973; abortion; Feb-Oct
4	2	11	1973; Cancer Remedy Control Law, May-Oct
5	2	12	1973; capital punishment; Aug-Sep
5	2	13	1973; "Day of Concern" regarding conduct of President Nixon
5	2	14	1973-1974; Wildlife Management

Reel	Box	Folder	Description
			Area Act/Deseret Land and Livestock Corporation land acquisitions
5	2	15	1973, 1975; Equal Rights Amendment
5	2	16	1973, 1975; Equal Rights Amendment
5	2	17	1973, 1975; Equal Rights Amendment
5	2	18	1973, 1975; Equal Rights Amendment
5	2	19	1973-1976; wild horses in Utah
5	2	20	1973-1976; wild horses in Utah
5	2	21	1973-1976; wild horses in Utah
5	3	1	1973-1976; wild horses in Utah
5	3	2	1973-1976; wild horses in Utah
6	3	3	1973-1976; wild horses in Utah
6	3	4	1973-1976; wild horses in Utah
6	3	5	1973-1976; wild horses in Utah
6	3	6	1974; Daylight Saving Time; Jan-Feb
6	3	7	1975; motorcycle helmet law; Jan
6	3	8	1975; teachers/public employees retirement bill, S.B. 51; Feb-Mar
6	3	9	1975; Utah State Training School; Nov
6	3	10	1976; execution of Gary Gilmore; Nov-Dec
6	3	11	1976; execution of Gary Gilmore; Nov-Dec
6	3	12	1976; execution of Gary Gilmore; Nov-Dec
7	3	13	1976; execution of Gary Gilmore; Nov-Dec
7	3	14	1976; execution of Gary Gilmore; Nov-Dec
7	3	15	1976; execution of Gary Gilmore; Nov-Dec
7	3	16	1976; execution of Gary Gilmore; Nov-Dec
7	3	17	1976; execution of Gary Gilmore; Nov-Dec
7	3	18	1976; execution of Gary Gilmore; Nov-Dec
7	3	19	1976; execution of Gary Gilmore; Nov-Dec
8	4	1	1976; execution of Gary Gilmore; Nov-Dec

Reel	Box	Folder	Description
8	4	2	1976; Kaiparowits Power Project
8	4	3	1976; Kaiparowits Power Project
8	4	4	1976; Kaiparowits Power Project
8	4	5	1976; Kaiparowits Power Project